



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/673,305	09/29/2003	Timothy E. Dorr	1003-035	1514
47653	7590	05/05/2006	EXAMINER	
DAVID E. HUANG, ESQ. BAINWOOD HUANG AND ASSOCIATES LLC 2 CONNECTOR ROAD WESTBOROUGH, MA 01581			PHAN, RAYMOND NGAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2111	

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/673,305	DORR ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Raymond Phan	2111	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 February 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1-4, 12-15 and 23-26 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 5, 16, 22, 27 and 33 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 6-11, 16-21 and 28-32 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

Part III DETAILED ACTION

Notice to Applicant(s)

1. This action is responsive to the following communications: amendment filed on February 17, 2006.
2. This application has been examined. Claims 1-33 are pending.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 5, 16, 22, 27, 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato et al. (US No. 6,070,205) in view of Sun et al. (US Pub No. 2004/0059852).

In regard to claims 5, 16, 27, Kato et al. disclose the plurality of slave devices (see figure 4, col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 14); a plurality of control devices that are capable of being master devices (see figure 4, col. 6, lines 3-7); a plurality of serial buses to which the control devices and slave devices are coupled (see figure 4, col. 5, line 66 through col. 6, line 3); wherein the plurality of control devices arbitrate to determine which of the plurality of control devices shall be the master device for controlling the plurality of serial buses (see col. 14, lines 26-40). But Kato et al. do not specifically disclose wherein the master device periodically switches between the plurality of serial buses to communicate with the slave

devices. However Sun et al. disclose the bus arbiter system 170 and method for managing communication buses comprising the plurality of serial buses wherein the master device periodically switches between the plurality of serial buses to communicate with the slave devices (see figure 2, para 28-32). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Sun et al. within the system of Kato et al. because it would allows the application cards to dynamically select or arbitrate between different communication buses.

In regard to claims 22, 33, Sun et al. disclose monitoring the activity of the master on the plurality of serial bus and wherein each master is associated with a different timeout parameter (see para 31-34); detecting activity on the plurality of serial bus (see para 34-35); if no activity is detected on the plurality of serial buses, the control station waits for a time period associated with the timeout parameter and if upon expiry of the time period, there is still no activity detected on the plurality of serial buses, the control station becomes the master station (see para 33-36). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of an ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have combined the teachings of Sun et al. within the system of Kato et al. because it would allows the application cards to dynamically select or arbitrate between different communication buses.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-4, 12-15, 23-26 are allowed over the prior of record.
7. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claims 1, 12, 23 are allowable over the prior art of record because the prior arts, cited in its entirety, do not show the master device for polling a plurality of slave devices and maintaining a fast polling and a slow

polling list, the master device polling only one slave device at a time from either list and wherein the slave device is associated with the fast polling list if the slave device respond to a poll from the master device within a time period, and wherein the slave device is associated with the slow polling list if the slave device does not respond to a poll from the master device within a time period.

8. Claims 6-11, 17-21, 28-32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. The reason of allowance for claims 6-10, 17-21, 28-32 can be found in previous Office Action.

Response to Amendment

10. Applicant's amendment and arguments, see pages 1-14, filed February 17, 2006, with respect to the rejection of claims 5, 16, 27 under 35USC103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of Sun et al.

Conclusion

11. Claims 5, 16, 22, 27, 33 are rejected. Claims 1-4, 12-15, 23-26 are allowed. Claims 6-11, 16-21, 28-32 are objected.

12. The prior arts made of record and not relied upon are considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Fitzsimmons et al. (US No. 6,954,821) disclose a crossbar switch that supports a multi-port slave deice and method of operation.

Art Unit: 2111

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Raymond Phan, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3630. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:30AM- 4:00PM.

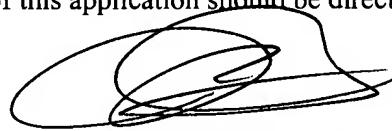
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Primary, Paul Myers can be reached on (571) 272-3639 or via e-mail addressed to paul.myers@uspto.gov. The fax phone number for this Group is (571) 273-8300.

Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [raymond.phan@uspto.gov].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the TC 2100 central telephone number is (571) 272-2100.



MARK H. RINEHART
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Raymond Phan

April 25, 2006

